

*WLCU World Lebanese Cultural Union Member of LACC*

*Webinar*

# **Lebanon Towards a National Security Policy**

**Ziad El Sayegh, PhD  
21 September 2025**



Lebanon stands at a crossroads. Decades of political paralysis, entrenched corruption, and the presence of armed non-state actors have eroded both its Sovereignty and the Legitimacy of its Institutions. Yet, the country's survival, and its future role in the region, depends on reclaiming the State as the true guarantor of Security, Justice, and public Common Good, which necessitate a comprehensive National Security Policy rooted in Citizenship, Legitimacy, and State Authority. Such a policy must address three interconnected domains:

### 1. Sovereignty (Security and Military)

- **Monopoly over arms:** All weapons must be under the exclusive authority of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). Non-state actors, regardless of their claims of resistance, undermine state sovereignty.
- **Border control:** Full demarcation and enforcement of land and maritime borders with Syria, Israel, and Cyprus to curb smuggling, human trafficking, and infiltration.
- **National defense strategy:** A coherent doctrine empowering the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to safeguard Lebanon's territory and population, while gradually phasing out parallel armed structures.
- **Internal security:** Development of integrated security institutions capable of maintaining stability and preventing the recurrence of civil conflict.

### 2. Reform and Anti-Corruption (Administration and Judiciary)

- **Independent judiciary:** Establishing legal frameworks and guarantees to insulate the judiciary from political interference, ensuring accountability in major cases such as the Beirut Port explosion.
- **Administrative reform:** Streamlining state institutions to reduce clientelism and sectarian influence, professionalizing the civil service, and adopting transparent recruitment systems.
- **Financial governance:** Instituting strict oversight of public finances, combating illicit enrichment, and reclaiming misappropriated assets to restore trust in state institutions.
- **Citizen-centered services:** Expanding access to healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social protection, ensuring equitable service delivery across all regions.



### 3. Foreign Policy (Allies, Adversaries, and Enemies)

- **Balanced diplomacy:** Lebanon must pursue a foreign policy that prioritizes its sovereignty and neutrality, resisting external pressures to align exclusively with one regional or global bloc.
- **Refugee management:** Coordinating with international partners to address the Syrian refugee crisis within a framework that protects human rights while safeguarding national interests.
- **Regional integration:** Building constructive partnerships with Arab and Mediterranean neighbors to leverage trade, energy, and cultural ties.
- **International legitimacy:** Anchoring Lebanon's policies in international law, UN resolutions, and multilateral agreements to reinforce its standing as a sovereign state.

#### Core Principle

A Lebanese national security policy must integrate **Sovereignty, Legitimacy, and Citizenship**: sovereignty enforced by a strong security apparatus, legitimacy derived from effective and good governance, and citizenship as the unifying bond that transcends sectarian divisions.

#### Lebanon's Role in the Next 100 Years

Lebanon's destiny in the century ahead lies in whether it can transform from a weak, factionalized polity into a citizenship-based sovereign state. If successful, Lebanon will serve as a bridge between East and West, a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, and a model of pluralism in a turbulent region. Its role will not be measured by military might, but by its capacity to embody resilience, living together, and innovation.

